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YOUR REPORT FROM COUNCILWOMAN GERRIE SCHIPSKE * FEBRUARY 2007

THE STATE OF THE 5TH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Six months ago I was elected to serve as the Council Member for the 5th District. I take this privilege very seriously and have worked very hard these past six months on behalf of the residents of the 5th District. This report outlines what I have done in my first six months in office.

STAFFING

My first task in office was to select excellent staff to work in both the City Hall office and in the Neighborhood Office in El Dorado Park.

I then assigned the staff to specific neighborhoods of the 5th District so that we could be as responsive as possible to the concerns and requests of the residents of these areas.

Unfortunately, my predecessor left no files or records of work done or projects pending. So a great deal of our first months were spent contacting City departments for copies of any document pertaining to the 5th District and putting together files so that we could move forward.

My staff uses a sophisticated database system so that we can track all requests for services until their completion. This allows me to receive weekly "activity reports" from my staff on all contacts with residents in our district.

Additionally, we've developed a filing and inventory system to track all documents and equipment that belong to the 5th District.

I have also required all staff to complete a two-hour course on "Ethics" and a 6 week course on Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).

COMMUNICATIONS

Communicating with the residents of the 5th District is critical. Not only is it important for me to know of your concerns and issues but it is equally important for you to know what your local government is doing or not doing on your behalf.

Our office receives hundreds of e-mails, phone calls and mail each week that are reviewed and responded to as promptly as possible.

My staff has greatly improved the 5th District webpage at: <http://www.longbeach.gov/district5> to keep residents up to date on District and City activities. I have a blog (see below) linked to the website. My votes are also linked.

SCHIPSKE FIRST LOCAL OFFICIAL TO "BLOG"

Rookie Long Beach, California City Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske is "pioneering the use of blogging to communicate with her 5th District constituents," the Press-Telegram of Long Beach reported October 14, 2006. "On her blog, which she links from her city Web site, visitors can read her take on why she voted a certain way on a matter and what she thinks about pressing city issues," reporter Mira Jang writes. Jang said Schipske, "a self-taught blogger," updates the blog: www.schipskedistrict5journal.com several times a week in the evenings on her home computer. "I'm able to be more reflective in it," Jang quotes Schipske.

Increasing Public Safety Staffing Heads Schipske List

There are a variety of "projects" which I have launched since taking office last July, but none more important than increasing the number of "on the street" police and making certain the City repairs our aging fire stations. We need to do this without raising local taxes!

My proposal to establish a permanent mechanism for reviewing public safety staffing has been referred to the Public Safety Committee and will also be discussed in the Personnel and Civil Service Committee – which I chair.

Other important projects on which I am working in 2007:

- **"Good Neighbor Network"** -- to increase the number of neighborhood organizations in our District that can help our neighborhoods prepare for emergencies and strengthen Neighborhood Watch activities.
- **"5th District Infrastructure Advisory Committee"** -- to provide in-put on scheduling the repair and maintenance of sidewalks, streets and trees (trimming

and removal) in our District.

- **"5th District Small Business Advisory Committee"** – to assist small businesses in the 5th District network with other businesses and with the City.
- **Lakes, Ponds and Waterfowl Preservation Program** – to involve residents in helping improve our many man-made lakes and ponds in the 5th District and educate the public about the impact of these water bodies on the ducks and other birds that use them.
- **Long Beach Police and Fire Foundation** – every major city in the U.S. has a non-profit foundation that helps their local police departments by raising money for high-tech tools and officer training and community outreach programs – through private donations. I am working on developing such a foundation – similar to the one I formed to help our health department in 1992: **Long Beach Cares...**

5th District Statistics

- Zip codes: 90808 & 90815
- 49,000 residents
 - 18% renters
- 80% homeowners
 - 74% White
 - 12% Hispanic
 - 5% Asian
 - 3% Black
- 29% age 50 +
- 33% age 30-49
- 36% age 0-29
 - 5 parks
 - 24 schools
- 2 branch libraries
- 10,862 sidewalks
- 16,598 trees
- 11.47 sq. miles

5th District Youth Council:

Please contact my office if you know of youth between the ages of 12 and 21 who would like to serve on the 5th District Youth Council. This is an exciting way to get young people involved.

Council Items

I have introduced:

The following are some of the items I have introduced at City Council since taking office in July 2006:

- **PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON OVERSIZED & UNATTACHED VEHICLE PARKING.**
- **ORDINANCE TO PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF COUNCIL RECORDS BY PERSONS LEAVING OFFICE.**
- **CHARTER AMENDMENTS TO: PLACE PARKS IN PERPETUITY, GIVE COUNCIL INVESTIGATIVE POWERS, REQUIRE COUNCIL NOT TO SPEND PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS WHEN CALPERS IS "SUPERFUNDED."**

Council Committee Assignments

I have been appointed by Mayor Bob Foster to serve on the following important committees:

- Personnel and Civil Service Committee (Chairperson)
- Federal Legislation Committee (Member)
- Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Vice-Chairperson)
- Public Safety Committee (Vice-Chairperson)
- Elections Oversight Committee (Vice-Chairperson)
- Charter Reform Committee
- Ad Hoc Committee on Council Rules
- Independent Cities Association
- Spring Street Joint Powers Authority
- San Gabriel and Los Angeles Watershed Council

Assisting Our Public Libraries



Long Beach Library "Round-Up"

I am working on a program that will encourage local business to ask their customers to "round-up" their spare change and donate it to the Friends of the Long Beach Libraries throughout the month of April. These funds can be used to purchase books and other materials and can greatly help our libraries.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping.



city of
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